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Baden makes is that after five or six days further germination of spores and growth of the germ tubes already formed is inhibited through the action of another form of bacillus present in the cultures. The characteristics of these two types of bacilli have not been determined. Miss Baden gives no explanation of how *Coprinus* spores free from bacteria may be obtained. That *Coprinus* spores germinate in the presence of bacteria is well known to the mycologist. The problem lies in growing spores of various fungi in pure culture. Then and only then may we dare to approach the question—"What is the origin of the binucleated condition in the Basidiomycetes?"

MICHAEL LEVINE

#### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Henry S. Conard, professor of botany in Grinnell College, Iowa, will be in residence at Harvard University during the second semester of the current school year as "Visiting Lecturer," on the Exchange Relation of the colleges of the middle west.

Mr. R. C. Faulwetter at Columbia University has been appointed Plant Pathologist at the Experiment Station of South Carolina at Clemson College. Mr. Faulwetter's new duties begin in January.

The friends and colleagues of Professor Peck, who has recently retired from the position of New York State Botanist after nearly fifty years of service, have expressed a wish to commemorate his important labors in the field of mycology by placing in the new rooms of the New York State Museum an exhibit of reproductions of the Edible and Poisonous Fungi of New York. Further information may be obtained from Dr. J. M. Clarke, Education Building, Albany, N. Y.

At the Columbus meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science a group of botanists and zoologists interested in ecology organized the American Ecological Society. This action was the culmination of a meeting in Philadelphia in 1914, reported in *TORREYA* for November, 1915. The first

officers of the new society are: *President*, Victor E. Shelford; *Vice-President*, William M. Wheeler; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Forrest Shreve.

The officers for the Botanical Society of America for the coming year are *President*, R. A. Harper; *Vice-President*, G. T. Moore; *Treasurer*, Arthur Hollick; *Secretary*, H. H. Bartlett. The society voted to do away with the class of membership heretofore known as fellows, but failed to create a class of honorary membership as outlined in a proposed amendment to the constitution.

A series of free public lectures for amateur gardeners and those interested in plant growth has been established at the University of Pennsylvania. The lectures are being given on Wednesday evenings by Dr. John M. Macfarlane, professor of botany and director of the botanical gardens of the university.

*The Plant World* announces the offering of two prizes for the best papers embodying original work in soil physics. The first prize will be \$50 and the second \$25, with the reservation of the right to withhold both prizes if no worthy papers are submitted or to combine the prizes for the rewarding of a paper of exceptional merit. The conditions governing the award will be similar to those employed in connection with the prizes for papers on the water relations of plants which were offered in April, 1915. The contesting contributions should be in the hands of the editor of *The Plant World* by December 1, 1916, and the announcement of the award will be made not later than March 1, 1917.

Associate Professor H. P. Barss has been promoted to be professor of botany and plant pathology at the Oregon Agricultural College in place of Professor H. S. Jackson, who recently resigned to accept the position of plant pathologist at Purdue University.

Dr. Paul Bartsch and Dr. J. N. Rose have been selected as delegate and alternate to represent the Biological Society of Washington at the Pan-American Scientific Congress.

At the annual meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences held at the Hotel Manhattan on the evening of December 20, 1915, members of the New York Academy were enabled to con-

verse with members of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, by the courtesy of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company. Dr. Britton talked with Miss Alice Eastwood, curator of the botanical collections of the California Academy, obtained information relative to specimens of certain cactuses collected on the Galapagos Islands, and asked that they be loaned to him for study, which request was granted; a letter written by Miss Eastwood on December 30 states that the specimens will be sent to the New York Botanical Garden in a short time. A record is here made of this event, as doubtless the first instance when botanical specimens were borrowed over a telephonic distance of more than three thousand miles.